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Action

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A.R.A.

FROM: LIMA

Info

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 373, SEPTEMBER 19, 6 PM.

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REFERENCE: DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR TELEGRAM 465.

PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 4 AND 13 AND TASS STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 11 FOR MOST PART REPORTED IN WEEK 37 SEPTEMBER 13 AND CUBA CLIPPINGS ALREADY SENT DEPARTMENT.

PRENSA SAID LAST WEEK THAT RUSSIAN MILITARY BUILDUP OF CUBA IS CRUCIAL TEST FOR KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION, AND US REACTION WOULD PROVE WHETHER RIO TREATY IS WORTH PAPER IT IS WRITTEN ON. COMERCIO SAID CUBA REPRESENTS MILITARY, IDEOLOGICAL DANGER FOR HEMISPHERE, AND PEOPLE OF HEMISPHERE HAVE DUTY ADOPT NECESSARY MEANS FOR DEFENSE AND SECURITY ACCORDING AGREEMENTS INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. TRIBUNA SAID CUBAN BUILDUP DEMANDS ALL DEMOCRACIES COORDINATE DEFENSE ON BASIS RIO TREATY BUT NOT MONROE DOCTRINE. CRONICA GAVE HEAVIEST WIRE COVERAGE PRESIDENT, TASS STATEMENTS BUT AS USUAL MADE ONLY MINIMUM COMMENT. EX-PRESO GAVE ONLY SLIGHT COVERAGE, NO SIGNIFICANT COMMENT.

IN SERIES OF FIRST-PAGE EDITORIALS TRIBUNA HAS CALLED FOR INTER-AMERICAN ACTION AGAINST CUBA, BUT SAYS ALL LATIN AMERICAN REJECTS MONROE DOCTRINE. PRENSA WRITER JUAN ZEGARA ALSO SAID HEMISPHERE ACTION AGAINST CASTRO NECESSARY BUT MONROE DOCTRINE IS IMPROPER INSTRUMENT BECAUSE IT IS UNILATERAL AND NOT RECOGNIZED IN LATIN AMERICA.

PRESS HAS REPORTED APRA LEADER HAYA DE LA TORRE SPEECH IN BRAZIL IN WHICH HE CALLED FOR HEMISPHERE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST CUBA. FOREIGN MINISTER LLCSA ALSO PUBLICLY EXPRESSED GOP CONCERN OVER CUBA. BOTH THE AN PRESIDENT PEREZ GONZALEZ STATED FERNANDEZ

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BUT WILL BE UNABLE ATTEND UNLESS ASSURED QUESTION DE FACTO GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED. AMBASSADOR LETTS OF FOREIGN OFFICE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY OFFICER FOREIGN OFFICE CONCERN OVER PRESS ACCOUNTS SOVIET BUILD-UP IN CUBA.

REACTION ALL LIMA DAILIES HAS BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO US POSITION, ALTHOUGH PRENSA HAS CRITICIZED US-CUBAN POLICY AS WEAK AND INCONSISTENT, IMPLYING US SHOULD TAKE DECISIVE ACTION CLEAN OUT CASTRO REGIME. COMERCIO HAS ECHOED JUNTA LINE ON CUBA BEING SEPARATE PROBLEM FROM COUPS BUT WARNED THAT PRECIPITATE US ACTION MIGHT UNLEASH GLOBAL WAR. TRIBUNA LUMPS PERUVIAN COUP WITH CASTROISM AS "ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY" AND THREAT TO FREE INSTITUTIONS. LEFTIST PRO-JUNTA CARETAS MAGAZINE GLOATED THAT CUBAN PROBLEM FORCED KENNEDY OVERCOME PIQUE AT PERU FOR FOILING HIS PLANS MAKE HAYA PRESIDENT, NOW SEES HE NEEDS PERU'S SUPPORT ON CUBA.

ASIDE FROM ROUTINE STUDENT MEETINGS AND PRONOUNCEMENTS FOLLOWING PREDICTABLE PATTERN, THERE HAVE BEEN NO PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS OF OPINION ON RECENT CUBAN DEVELOPMENTS, AND SPARSE COMMENT BY POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT FIGURES.

SEVERAL GOP OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN, POLITICAL LEADERS AND OTHER PROMINENT PERUVIANS HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS THEIR CONCERN OVER COMMUNIST INTERVENTION IN HEMISPHERE, STATING US SHOULD TAKE STRONG AND DIRECT ACTION ALLEVIATE CUBAN PROBLEM AND ELIMINATE SOVIET INTERVENTION, REGARDLESS ADVERSE REACTION SOME SECTORS LATIN AMERICA. CUBAN PROBLEM SEEN BY MANY HERE AS PRIMARILY PART WORLDWIDE STRUGGLE BETWEEN US AND USSR IN WHICH PERU'S INTERESTS ONLY INDIRECTLY AFFECTED.

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